

## Electronic Testimony for SB 1088

My name is Stanley Peters and I live in Killingworth CT with my wife Rev. Kathleen Peters and our 31 year old special needs daughter Sarah. I am writing to support the passage of SB 1088 An Act concerning services for individuals with intellectual disabilities. I would like to thank Senator Geratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for raising this bill and urge them to pass it out of their committee.

Without passage of this bill DDS will continue to study this forever and never close these institutions (Southbury Training School and the five regional centers) until the last person dies and that could be decades from now. Every study that has been done, going back to the mid-1990's has concluded that these institutions must be closed. Not only does the operation of these institutions rob DDS funds that could be used to provide supported living for the more than 2000 individuals on the DDS waiting lists, it also robs the individuals housed in these institutions of their civil and human rights to live the best possible life that each one is capable of living.

It is only a matter of time before the federal government tells the state of Connecticut that these institutions have to be closed. Without passage of this bill I fear that the Malloy administration will be put in a position of having to close the institutions without having a plan in place to do so. This will do no one any good and will probably end up costing the state more than if they had a plan in place. I think it is safe to say that most of us feel that no matter how much we would like to see this happen overnight, the reality is that it can't and shouldn't happen without a proper plan in place. The only way that DDS will establish a plan with a credible time table is for the legislature to act by passing this bill.